ment Corporation. Looking to the development needs and aspirations of the region, the geographical set up and communication difficulties, IDBI has co-sponsored one more Technical Consultancy Organisation, viz, North Eastern Industrial Consultancy Limited (NECON) at Imphal to cater to the consultancy needs of the States of Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram. NECON has been jointly sponsored by Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India, Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India, State Bank of India, United Bank of India and Industrial Development Corporations of the State concerned.

Offer of Assistance to Nepal in procuring Her Essential Requirements

1009. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has offered to assist in procuring for Nepal her essential requirements through the third countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI) : (a) and (b) It was suggested recently to the Nepalese Government officials that in order to promote cooperation between India and Nepal, the Indian Public Sector Organisations such as STC and MMTC could assist in procuring for Nepal also commodities which we are importing for use in India such as edible oil or non-ferrous metals. The Nepalese authorities agreed that the suggestion was worth considering. In fact, an arrangement on this pattern is already operating in the petroleum sector

Coal Mine Accidents

1010. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on an average 200 coal miners die every year and since 1980, 1300 people have died in mine accidents;

(b) if so, how many prosecution cases have been launched against the management of coal mines during the last three years, year-wise, along with the details of punishments awarded, and

(c) what remedial measures have been taken by Government for checking such accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Unfortunately inspite of all reasonable care on an average 188 persons lost their lives annually from the year 1980 to 1986 in accidents which occurred in coal mines. The total number of persons killed in these accidents was 1314.

(b) The details are furnished in the statement enclosed. [*See* Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 37.]

(c) Provisions for safety, health and welfare of workers employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and rules and regulations framed thereunder. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The Director General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad and his officers inspect mines periodically in order to enforce the statutory provisions in respect of mines safety. The Director General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the mine managements from time to time for adopting safety measures. A standing committee on safety in coal mines headed by the Union Energy Minister reviews from time to time the status of safety in coal mines.

Jute Mills lying Closed in West Bengal

1011. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state what is the number of jute mills lying closed in West Bengal, indicating the dates of closure and the steps being taken to reopen them ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : At present, the following 16 jute mills are lying closed in